Union Territories are not covered under the Schemes of CRF/NCCF, as Finance Commission's mandata concerned with the sharing of revenue between the Centre and the States. Relief assistance to the UTs is provided from Budget provision of the Ministry of Home Affairs, after following the laid down procedure.

Three-pronged approach to tackle Naxalism

564. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inter Ministerial Group on Naxalism under the Chairmanship of Home Minister held a meeting to discuss steps to strengthen security to meet the state of naxal attacks in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and other States;

(b) whether the security forces have suggested a three-pronged approach going after prominent leaders to break the Naxalite network, taking control of specific 132 areas which are their stronghold and speeding up development work in areas where security already have strong presence;

(c) if so, to what extent these steps have helped in meeting the anti-naxalites threat; and

(d) the steps proposed to monitor such areas regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Central Government accords a very high priority to review and monitor the naxal situation and the measures being taken by the States both on security and development fronts to control it. Union Home Minister reviews naxal situation periodically. Several monitoring and review mechanisms under Union Home Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Union Home Secretary, Special Secretary (Internal Security) and Special Secretary (Naxal Management) are in place.

Persons died/killed in police custody

565. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 7468 persons have died or been killed in police custody during 2002-07;

(b) if so, whether large number of these deaths were due to torture as opined by Asian Centre for Human Rights;

(c) whether any police personnel were identified who were responsible for these "alleged torture deaths"; and

(d) how many such police personnel were punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) As per the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to all State Governments/Union Territories, all cases of custodial deaths are required to be reported to the NHRC within 24 hours of its occurrence alongwith the relevant reports *viz.* Inquest Reports, Magisterial Inquiry Reports, Post-Mortem Reports.